




OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

DATE: Sept. 16, 2010

TO: Honorable Council President Ben Hueso
Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Jerry Sanders 

SUBJECT: Council Policy 900-11

I am recommending that Council Policy 900-11 be suspended in light of the City's structural deficit and the projected \$72 million deficit in the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2012.

Council Policy 900-11, Inclusion of Public Art in Selected Capital Improvements Program and Redevelopment Agency Projects, was last amended by the City Council in April 2004 and provides funding for the City's public art program.

The policy allows for its temporary suspension if the Mayor "determines the anticipated revenues in the current or upcoming fiscal year will be insufficient to maintain the current level of City services."

At present, the City is considering substantial and deep cuts in all General Fund services for Fiscal Year 2012, including the public safety services provided by our Fire-Rescue Department, Police Department, and Lifeguard Service.

It is highly probable that these cuts will include making permanent the "rolling brown-outs" at fire stations, lay-offs of sworn police personnel and closure of city facilities.

While the goals of public art are important and commendable, they must be closely examined at a time when our public safety goals cannot be adequately funded.

I have asked Chief Operating Officer Jay Goldstone to produce a plan for implementation of this suspension of Council Policy 900-11, which will be brought to the Council for approval within 30 days..

cc: Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney
Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Victoria Hamilton, Executive Director, Commission for Arts and Culture
Colette Carson Royston, Chair, Commission for Arts and Culture